

R2-20-109 Reporting Requirements

- A.** No change.
- B.** No change.
- C.** No change.
- D.** Transportation expenses.
 - 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (D), the costs of transportation relating to the election of a participating statewide or legislative office candidate shall not be considered a direct campaign expense and shall not be reported by the candidate as expenditures or as in-kind contributions.
 - 2. If a participating candidate travels for campaign purposes in a privately owned automobile, the candidate may:
 - a. use campaign funds to reimburse the owner of the automobile at a rate not to exceed the state mileage reimbursement rate in which event the reimbursement shall be considered a direct campaign expense and shall be reported as an expenditure and reported in the reporting period in which the expenditure was incurred. If a candidate chooses to use campaign funds to reimburse, the candidate shall keep an itinerary of the trip, including name and type of events(s) attended, miles traveled and the rate at which the reimbursement was made. This subsection applies to candidate owned automobiles in addition to any other automobile. ~~Traditional candidates may reimburse in a similar fashion, but are not required to stay within the State mileage rate.~~
 - b. use campaign funds to pay for direct fuel purchases for the candidate's automobile only and shall be reported. If a candidate chooses to use campaign funds for direct fuel purchases, the candidate shall keep an itinerary of the trip, including name and type of events(s) attended, miles traveled and the rate at which the reimbursement could have been made.
 - 3. Use of airplanes.
 - a. If a participating candidate travels for campaign purposes in a privately owned airplane, within 7 days from the date of travel, the candidate shall use campaign funds to reimburse the owner of the airplane at a rate of \$150 per hour of flying time, in which event the reimbursement shall be considered a direct campaign expense and shall be reported as an expenditure. If the owner of the airplane is unwilling or unable to accept reimbursement, the participating candidate shall remit to the fund an amount equal to \$150 per hour of flying time.
 - b. If a participating candidate travels for campaign purposes in a state-owned airplane, within 7 days from the date of travel, the candidate shall use campaign funds to reimburse the state for the portion allocable to the campaign in accordance with subsection 3a, above. The portion of the trip attributable to state business shall not be reimbursed. If payment to the State is not possible, the payment shall be remitted to the Clean Elections Fund.
 - 4. If a participating candidate rents a vehicle or purchases a ticket or fare on a commercial carrier for campaign purposes, the actual costs of such rental (including fuel costs), ticket or fare shall be considered a direct campaign expense and shall be reported as an expenditure.
- E.** No change.
- F.** Independent Expenditure Reporting Requirements.
 - 1. Any person making independent expenditures cumulatively exceeding the amount prescribed in A.R.S. § 16-941(D) in an election cycle shall file campaign finance reports in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-958 and Commission rules.
 - 2. Any person required to comply with A.R.S. § 16-917 shall provide a copy of the literature and advertisement to the Commission at the same time and in the same manner as prescribed by A.R.S. § 16-917(A) and (B). For purposes of this subsection (F), "literature and advertisement" includes electronic communications, including emails and social media messages or postings, sent to more than 1,000 people.
 - 3. Any person making an independent expenditure on behalf of a candidate, participating or non-participating, and not timely filing a campaign finance report as required by A.R.S. § 16-941(D), A.R.S. § 16-958, or A.R.S. § 16-913 shall be subject to a civil penalty as described in A.R.S. § 16-942(B). An expenditure advocating against one or more candidates shall be considered an expenditure on behalf of any opposing candidate or candidates. This subsection and A.R.S. § 16-942(B) applies to any political committee that

accepts contributions or makes expenditures on behalf of any candidate, participating or nonparticipating, regardless of any other contributions taken or expenditures made. Penalties imposed pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed twice the amount of expenditures not reported. Penalties shall be assessed as follows:

- a. For an election involving a candidate for statewide office, the civil penalty shall be \$300 per day.
 - b. For an election involving a legislative candidate, the civil penalty shall be \$100 per day.
 - c. The penalties in (a) and (b) shall be doubled if the amount not reported for a particular election cycle exceeds ten (10%) percent of the applicable one of the adjusted primary election spending limit or adjusted general election spending limit.
 - d. The dollar amounts in items (a) and (b), and the spending limits in item (c) are subject to adjustment of A.R.S. § 16-959.
4. Any corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that is both (a) not registered as a political committee and (b) in compliance with or intends to comply with A.R.S. § 16-920(A)(6) and A.R.S. § 16-914.02(A)(2) may seek an exemption from the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-941(D) and A.R.S. § 16-958(A) and (B) for an election cycle by applying to the Commission for an exemption using a form specified by the Commission's Executive Director.
 5. The form shall contain, at a minimum, a sworn statement by a natural person authorized to bind the corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization certifying that the corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization:
 - a. is in compliance with, and intends to remain in compliance with, the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-914.02(A)-(J); and
 - b. has or intends to spend more than the applicable threshold prescribed by A.R.S. § 16-914.02(A)(1) and (A)(2).
 6. A corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that does not receive an exemption from the Commission must file the Clean Elections Act independent expenditure reports specified by A.R.S. § 16-941(D) and A.R.S. § 16-958(A)-(B), and comply with the requirements of A.R.S. § 16-913.
 7. Unless the request for an exemption is incomplete or the Executive Director is aware that any required statement is untrue or incorrect, the Executive Director shall grant the exemption. Civil penalties shall not accrue during the pendency of a request for exemption.
 - a. If the Executive Director deems the application for exemption is incomplete the person may reapply within two weeks of the Executive Director's decision by filing a completed application for exemption.
 - b. The denial of an exemption pursuant to this subsection is an appealable agency action. The Executive Director shall draft and serve notice of an appealable agency action pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.03 and § 41-1092.04 on the respondent. The notice shall identify the following:
 - i. The specific facts constituting the denial;
 - ii. A description of the respondent's right to request a hearing and to request and informal settlement conference; and
 - iii. A description of what the respondent may do if the respondent wishes to remedy the situation without appealing the Commission's decision.
 8. A corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that has received an exemption is exempt from the filing requirements of A.R.S. § 16-941(D) and A.R.S. § 16-958 and the civil penalties outlined in A.R.S. § 16-942, provided that the exempt entity, during the election cycle (a) remains in compliance with the reporting requirements of A.R.S. § 16-914.02 (A)-(J) and (b) remains in compliance with section part (2) of this subsection (F). All Commission rules and statutes related to enforcement apply to exempt entities. The Commission may audit these entities, any exempt entity pursuant to Article 4 of these rules.
 9. Any person may file a complaint with the Commission alleging that (a) any corporation, limited liability company, or labor organization that has applied for or received an exemption under this subsection has provided false information in an application or violated the terms of the exemption stated in part (8) of this subsection (F); or (b) any person that has not applied for or received an exemption has violated A.R.S. § 16-941(D), § 16-958, or parts (1), (2), or (6) of this subsection (F). Complaints shall be processed as prescribed in Article 2 of these rules. If the Commission finds that a complaint is valid, the person complained of shall be liable as outlined in A.R.S. § 16-942(B) and part (3) of this subsection (F), in addition to any other penalties applicable pursuant to rule or statute.
 10. Neither a form filed seeking an exemption pursuant to this subsection (F) nor a Clean Elections Act independent expenditure report filed as specified by A.R.S. § 16-9958 constitutes an admission that the

filer is or should be considered a political committee. The grant of an exemption pursuant to this subsection (F) does not constitute a finding or determination that the filer is or should be considered a political committee.

11. Any entity that has been granted an exemption as of September 11, 2014 is deemed compliant with the requirements of subpart (5) of this subsection (F) for the election cycle ending in 2014.

12. a. the commission shall bear the burden of proving by a preponderance of evidence that an entity is a political committee.

b. an entity shall not be found to be a political committee unless, during a two-year legislative election cycle, the total reportable contributions made by the entity plus the total reportable expenditures made by the entity exceeds both \$500 and fifty percent (50%) of the entity's total spending during the election cycle.

i. for purposes of this provision, a "reportable contribution" or "reportable expenditure" shall be limited to a contribution or expenditure, as defined in title 16 of the Arizona revised statutes, that must be reported to the Arizona secretary of state, the Arizona citizens clean elections commission, or local filing officer in Arizona. a contribution or expenditure that must be reported to the federal election commission or to the election authority of any other state, but not to the Arizona secretary of state, the Arizona citizens clean elections commission or a local filing officer in Arizona, shall not be considered a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure.

ii. for purposes of this provision, "total spending" shall not include volunteer time or fundraising and administrative expenses but shall include all other spending by the organization.

iii. for purposes of this provision, grants to other organizations shall be treated as follows:

a. a grant made to a political committee or an organization organized under section 527 of the internal revenue code shall be counted in total spending and as a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure, unless expressly designated for use outside arizona or for federal elections, in which case such spending shall be counted in total spending but not as a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure.

b. if the entity making a grant takes reasonable steps to ensure that the transferee does not use such funds to make a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure, such a grant shall be counted in total spending but not as a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure.

iv. if the entity making a grant earmarks the grant, knows the grant will be used to make reportable contributions or reportable expenditures, knows that a recipient will likely use a portion of the grant to make reportable contributions or reportable expenditures, or responds to a solicitation for reportable contributions or reportable expenditures, the grant shall be counted in total spending and such portion of the grant shall count as a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure.

v. notwithstanding subsections ii(c)(1)-(3), the amount of a grant counted as a reportable contribution or reportable expenditure shall be limited to the lesser of the grant or the following:

a. the amount that the recipient organization spends on reportable contributions and reportable expenditures, plus

b. the amount that the recipient organization gives to third parties but not more than the amount that such third parties fund reportable contributions or reportable expenditures.

c. in the event that an entity fails to qualify for the safe harbor provided in section ii above, the commission may nonetheless determine that an entity is not a political committee if, taking into account all the facts and circumstances of grants made by an entity, it would be inequitable or unreasonable to determine that the entity is a political committee.

d. the commission shall not compel an entity to identify its sources of funding unless the commission has determined that the entity is a political committee and such determination is upheld after any timely appeals. any information gathered in the course of the commission's investigation of an entity's political committee status shall remain confidential until the final disposition of any appeal.